

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs Faculty Biographies

Timothy M. Heimann, Pharm.D., MBA

Assistant Director, Community Outpatient Service & Pharmacy Service

Dr. Heimann received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2008. Following graduation, he started his career as a staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Between 2009 and 2014 Dr. Heimann has held various management positions within inpatient and clinical pharmacy. During this time Dr. Heimann completed a Master of Business Administration in Health Care Management from Indiana Wesleyan University. He served as the Associate Chief of Pharmacy Operations before becoming the Chief of Pharmacy in January 2016. During the summer of 2020, Dr. Heimann took on a new role as the Assistant Director of Community Outpatient Service & Pharmacy Service. In this position he maintains his role as the Chief of Pharmacy, while now having additional oversight responsibilities of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics within the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Heimann is involved with precepting both pharmacy students and residents during their administration rotations. He is active in the profession and has held officer positions within the Cleveland Society of Health System Pharmacists and the Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Mary Ellen (Molly) Amos, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Amos graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2015. During her time as a student, Dr. Amos worked as a pharmacy intern at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) where she became very interested in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. After graduation, she went on to complete her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Cleveland Clinic, Main Campus in 2016 and her PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOHS in 2017. Following residency, Dr. Amos began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VANEOHS in August 2017 and she currently practices at the Lake County Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Dr. Amos's responsibilities and duties include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics, collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, and responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-2 pharmacy residents and Pharm.D. candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Amos received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018.

Charles Baddour, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Medicine

Dr. Baddour received his PharmD from University of Toledo in 2020. He then completed a PGY-1, followed by a PGY-2 in Critical Care, at Charleston Area Medical Center in West Virginia. Starting in 2020, he worked in the ER at Charleston Area Medical Center, involved with residency program as a preceptor for PGY-2 Critical Care residents. He transitioned up to VANEOHS where he took a job as an ER pharmacist at Wade Park. His daily responsibilities include antibiotic review/culture callback list, medication reconciliations, medication facilitations for nursing staff, and general recommendations/question answering for physicians. Additional responsibilities include responding to rapid responses occurring on health-system grounds, assisting in medication preparation and delivery for emergency situations, and intervening on ordered medications to assist in managing drug shortages.

Julie Baron, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

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Dr. Julie Baron is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2004. After graduation, she went on to complete her Geriatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2005. Following residency, Dr. Baron began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at HealthSpan (formerly Kaiser Permanente Ohio) for eleven years then with its closure transitioned to working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Medication Management Clinic at MetroHealth in Cleveland. She rejoined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in August 2017 and currently practices at the Lorain County Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Current responsibilities include disease state management with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, pharmacy resident and student precepting as well as responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She obtained her Ambulatory Care Board Certification (BCACP) in 2011.

Kristen Bissett, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Bissett received her Pharm.D. from Ohio Northern University in 2020. Following graduation, she completed her PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). After residency, she stayed at VANEOHS briefly as an inpatient pharmacist before transitioning into the internal medicine position. Her daily responsibilities include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing medication reconciliation at transitions of care, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She enjoys serving as a preceptor for residents and APPE students on their internal medicine rotations.

Leslie Bittner, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. Bittner is originally from Cochranton, Pennsylvania. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2011. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency followed by a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). She obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) in 2013 and board certification in geriatrics (BCGP) in 2016. Following residency, Dr. Bittner continued with the VANEOHS as the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist on the Cardiology and Surgical units for nearly 5 years before returning to Geriatrics in 2018. Her current areas of practice are the Community Living Center (CLC; long-term care) and Physical Medicine and Rehab Services (PM&RS; subacute inpatient rehab). Her responsibilities include comprehensive medication therapy reviews, drug information, inpatient interdisciplinary rounds, medication monitoring, medication histories, discharge medication reconciliation/counseling, and interdisciplinary team patient assessments. She is an active member of the Medication Management Committee and the VA local and regional (VISN) dementia committees. She acts as a preceptor for pharmacy students, PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and PGY-2 geriatric pharmacy residents.

Christopher Blum, Pharm.D., BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care in Geriatrics

Dr. Blum is originally from Buffalo, NY. HE graduated with his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Albany College of pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2018. Upon graduation, he completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) and then continued his training as a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Resident at the same site. After his residency graduation in June

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of 2020, Dr. Blum went to the Mansfield CBOC as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care. He then received his Board Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy in 2020. He then returned to the Wade Park PACT clinic as a geriatric Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Responsibilities include collaboration with Geriatric Health providers to evaluate and manage chronic disease states, such as diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and COPD. He provides reviews of patient medications for potentially inappropriate medications in geriatric patients. He additionally provides drug-information reviews and completes nonformulary consults for geriatric medications.

Nathan (Nate) Bohach, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Bohach graduated with his Pharm.D. from NEOMED in 2019. After graduation he completed PGY-1 residency training at Cleveland Clinic Akron General. He subsequently took a clinical pharmacist position at Akron General focusing on cardiac telemetry and heart failure. During this time, he was also highly involved with infectious disease and antimicrobial stewardship. He obtained his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy (BCPS) in 2021 and joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) in 2022 as an Emergency Medicine Pharmacist and has since transitioned to his current role in internal medicine. Dr. Bohach has a passion for teaching and enjoys being a part of the robust training program at the VANEOS.

Heather Carey, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Dr. Carey obtained her Bachelor of Science in biology from University of Florida in 2008 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2012 from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She then completed ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency training at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina followed by PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency training at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. She subsequently took a position as the Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist Specialist for University Hospitals in Richmond Heights Ohio and worked there until November 2018. She also served as adjunct faculty for Case Western Reserve University Department of Psychiatry from 2015-2018. Thereafter, she transitioned to the role of Mental Health PACT Pharmacy Specialist doing televideo appointments for the Warren CBOC in November 2018. Dr. Carey earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2015.

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Antonio Carson, Pharm.D., MS, BCGP Clinical Pharmacy Manager

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Acute/Long-Term Care

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Director, PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Carson is a 10-year veteran of the US Navy, where he worked as a pharmacy technician and discovered his love for the pharmacy profession. Dr. Carson received a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, a Master of Science in Pharmacy Leadership, and his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati. He completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency and PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Carson is a Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) and is the Residency Program Director for the PGY-2 Geriatric Residency Program. In 2018, Dr. Carson transitioned into his current role as a Clinical Pharmacy Manager. He is responsible for direct supervision of the Clinical Pharmacy Specialists in acute and long-term care. Dr. Carson maintains a clinical practice in Geriatrics by completing drug regimen reviews and providing pharmacotherapy recommendations for Long Term Care patients. His practice interests include geriatrics, neurology, and internal medicine.

Nicholas (Nick) Casto, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Medicine

Dr. Casto graduated from Ohio Northern in 2019, then completed a PGY1 at University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center. Post-residency, he worked as a staff inpatient pharmacist and the sterile compounding/hazardous drug designated person at St. Vincent's Charity Medical Center. During the spring of 2022, he took an inpatient staffing position at the Cleveland VAMC, with a transition to his current Emergency Medicine Pharmacist role occurring in March of 2023. His current responsibility is to help facilitate patient stabilization for discharge or admission. He also responds to stroke alerts that come through the ER and to rapid responses/code blues in ER and outpatient sides of the medical campus. He follows culture call backs for patients discharged out of the emergency department with any urine/skin/blood/etc. cultures. Lastly, a large part of the emergency department is completing medication reconciliations for our veteran's being admitted. His interests involve critical care and infectious diseases, of which the emergency department has a very good balance of both.

Robbie Lee Anne Christian, Pharm.D., BCIDP, AAHIVP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Director, PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Robbie Christian received her Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Toledo and further went on to obtain her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2017. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Miami VA Healthcare System in Miami, Florida, in 2018 and completed her PGY2 Infectious Diseases Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2019. She worked in Baton Rouge, LA for 4 years as an Infectious Diseases clinical specialist and Residency Program Coordinator for a PGY1 residency program. She returned to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio in 2022 as the PGY2 ID Residency Program Director and ID Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and is now the chair of the Residency Recruitment Subcommittee.

Dr. Christian has led and presented research involving BacterioScan Diagnostics to Eliminate Treatment of Asymptomatic Bacteriuria, Influence of Microbiological Culture Results on Antibiotic Choice for Veterans with Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia, and Inappropriate use of Azithromycin in Upper Respiratory Tract Infections. She was also integral in dismantling misinformation surrounding COVID-19 in her community by being a recurring panelist for a CandID conversations podcast.

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Dr. Christian has dedicated her early career to pharmacy organizations focused on minoritized individuals. She has held local, state, and national roles in SNPhA, LSHP, SHEA, OCCP, and SIDP. She serves as the past chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP) and Interim Executive Director for SNPhA. She is board certified in infectious diseases and HIV. Her interest areas include multidrug resistant pathogens, antifungal therapeutic monitoring, and HIV management.

Natasha Conley, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Conley is originally from Youngstown, Ohio. At the University of Toledo, she majored in Pharmacology/Toxicology and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2009. Subsequently, she attended the University of Kentucky where she earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In 2014, Dr. Conley began her career at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist focusing primarily on diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension. In addition, has been a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist since 2016. Currently, Dr. Conley is the PACT Clinical Pharmacy Manager overseeing the clinical pharmacy specialists who work in ambulatory care.

Danielle N Cooney, Pharm.D., BC-ADM

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Nephrology

Dr. Cooney studied chemistry at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio then graduated from The Ohio State University in June 2005 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited specialty residency in Primary Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in nephrology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio. Responsibilities include precepting pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Cooney also manages a Renal/Anemia Clinic as well as completes all non-formulary requests sent to the renal clinic. She collaborates with the nephrology team and provides services to the CKD shared medical appointments. Danielle received her Board Certification in Advance Diabetes Management in 2008.

Emily Czeck, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Czeck attended The University of Toledo where she earned her Bachelors of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2009 and Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2011. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – Hamot in Erie, PA and an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at the VA Central Texas Healthcare System in Temple, TX. Following residency, Dr. Czeck worked as a psychiatric clinical pharmacy specialist at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center in Battle Creek, MI. While there, she established the scope of practice for psychiatric pharmacists allowing them prescriptive authority and worked in both the outpatient mental health clinic and the substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder residential rehabilitation programs. She worked there for 3 years before returning home to northeast Ohio as an outpatient clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She serves as a mental health prescriber providing comprehensive medication management with prescriptive authority, conducting assessments, placing consults/referrals to appropriate services, and ordering laboratory and other tests for her veterans. In addition to working in outpatient mental health clinic, Dr. Czeck practices population management in psychiatry working on national initiatives including Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) and

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Psychotropic Drug Safety Initiative (PDSI). Dr. Czeck earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy (BCPP) in 2014. She is an active member of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) serving as a peer reviewer for their monthly publication the Mental Health Clinician since 2015.

Nathaniel (Nate) Czeck, Pharm.D.

Associate Manager, Outpatient Pharmacy

Dr. Czeck graduated with his PharmD from Duquesne University in 2008. After working at various Walgreens, he started as an outpatient pharmacist at the Battle Creek VAMC in 2015. He moved to VA Northeast Ohio in 2018 and started his current role at the end of 2021. He serves as the staffing preceptor for the PGY-2 pharmacy residents, along with his other duties in the outpatient pharmacy.

Alison Dailey, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry (Lorain CBOC)

Dr. Dailey earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Ohio Northern University in 2017. After graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program at the VANEOMS. After completion of her residency training, Dr. Dailey joined the VANEOMS mental health team at the Lorain VA Clinic. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formulary consults, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents. Dr. Dailey received her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018 and her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2019.

Danielle Danzi, Pharm.D., BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. Danzi is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia Tech in 2005 and went on to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy from VCU School of Pharmacy in 2009. After graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Following residency, Dr. Danzi has held several clinical pharmacist positions in the inpatient and long-term care settings. Her current responsibilities include completing comprehensive medication therapy reviews, providing drug information, performing discharge counseling, participating in interdisciplinary team patient assessments for the Community Living Center (long-term care), and covering the physical medicine and rehabilitation service (PM&RS). She also acts as a preceptor for pharmacy students, PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and PGY-2 geriatric pharmacy residents.

Charlie Dorflinger, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator

Dr. Dorflinger obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Chemical Biology and Master of Science in Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University in 2014. He went on to obtain his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2018 from Northeast Ohio Medical University. After graduation, he completed both an ASHP accredited PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS). After completion of his residency training, Dr. Dorflinger joined the VANEOMS team as a mental health clinical pharmacy specialist at the Canton CBOC. In mid-2021, Dr. Dorflinger transitioned to a new role as Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator for the VANEOMS at the Wade Park campus. Dr. Dorflinger received his

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Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2019 and his Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2020.

Joanna Duda, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Medicine

Dr. Duda graduated from the University of Findlay in 2021. During pharmacy school, she served as a pharmacy intern at the Louis Stokes VA for three years. After graduation, she completed my PGY-1 pharmacy residency at Mercy Health St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio in 2022. Post residency, she came back to the Cleveland VA as an Inpatient Pharmacist and transitioned into her current role as an Emergency Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in May of 2023. She enjoys working closely with various health-care disciplines, variability in clinical responsibilities, and direct patient care. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the Metroparks, spending time with friends and family, cooking, and cycling.

Megan M. Foreman, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Acute Inpatient Psychiatry

Dr. Foreman completed her undergraduate pharmacy prerequisites at Youngstown State University and graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2016 from Northeast Ohio Medical University. Immediately following graduation, Dr. Foreman completed her ASHP accredited PGY-1 residency at Mercy Health Lorain Hospital, as well as earning her teaching certificate from the University of Findlay. Dr. Foreman furthered her training by completing her ASHP accredited PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) in 2018. Following residency, Dr. Foreman served as the pharmacy director for Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital located in Toledo, OH, one of six hospitals owned and operated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. In April 2019, Dr. Foreman returned to VANEOMS and worked as a mental health clinical pharmacy specialist at the Youngstown, OH VA outpatient clinic prior to transitioning to the acute inpatient psychiatric unit in January 2022. Dr. Foreman is chair of the RAC Wellness Committee, a board-certified psychiatric pharmacist, a level one aromatherapist through the National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy (NAHA), and an active member of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacist (AAPP).

Dustin Freshwater, Pharm.D., BCIDP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Dr. Freshwater obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2016 from Duquesne University. He then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at MetroHealth and an ASHP accredited PGY-2 in Infectious Diseases at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Freshwater was then a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Antimicrobial Stewardship and Family Medicine at Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital for 5 years. Since 2022, he has been an Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Manager at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio. He is responsible for daily review of antimicrobial utilization, data analysis of antimicrobial utilization within VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, non-formulary drug request review, ensuring program compliance with various accreditation bodies, reporting of antimicrobial utilization, and OPAT management. He is board certified in infectious diseases. His interest areas include antimicrobial stewardship, rapid diagnostics, and data analysis.

Erika Gallagher, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology

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Dr. Gallagher earned her Pharm.D. from the University of Cincinnati in 2007. She then went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residency at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. From 2009 to 2023, she worked at the Cleveland Clinic as a Hematology/Oncology Clinical Specialist in solid tumor oncology and then a Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacist at the Cleveland Clinic Independence Family Health Center. There she served as preceptor for PGY1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residents and was Residency Program Director for the PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residency program from 2016-2018. She joined the VANEOLS as the Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in 2023. Dr. Gallagher is board certified on oncology. Her daily responsibilities include evaluation of chemotherapy and supportive care regimens, completion of non-formulary consults, oral antineoplastic patient education and follow-up, and answering drug information questions. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy residency and pharmacy students. She also participates in the Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee within the medical center, and she is an active member of the CPPO Oncology Subject Matter Expert Workgroup.

Paige S. Gast, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Gast obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and minor in Neuroscience in 2013 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2017 from The Ohio State University. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as well as a teaching certificate from Northeast Ohio Medical University. She then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Gast currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at VA Northeast Ohio David F. Winder Outpatient Clinic located in Mansfield, Ohio. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management to community-based outpatient clinics, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formularies, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Gast earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018 and her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2019.

Megan Goering, Pharm.D., BCACP Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Goering received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2014. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited specialty residency in Ambulatory Care at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio in 2015. She worked as a Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at The Ohio State University Division of Internal Medicine until June 2017. Dr. Goering began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in July 2017. Responsibilities include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments. Other duties include collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia as well as responding to drug information requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and Pharm.D. candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Goering received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2017.

Sara Gordon, Pharm.D., BCOP Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology

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Dr. Gordon earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree from The Ohio State University in 2012 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University in 2016. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the Memphis VA Medical Center, followed by a PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency at the Durham VA Health Care System. Following the completion of her residencies in 2018 she began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Oncology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Her daily responsibilities include evaluation of chemotherapy and supportive care regimens, completion of non-formulary consults, and answering drug information questions. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 ID residency programs. She also participates in the Research committee and Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee within the medical center, and she is an active member of Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA).

Amy Hirsch Shumaker, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Dr. Hirsch earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy in May 2002. After graduation she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Following her PGY-1 year, Dr. Hirsch went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY-2 training program in Infectious Disease at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, in Cleveland, OH. Dr. Hirsch is currently one of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacists at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System and specializes in HIV and Hepatitis. She holds a Senior Clinical Instructor appointment in the Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine (CASE SOM) for her involvement in the CASE SOM Infectious Disease Fellows Program. In addition to providing clinical pharmacy services to the HIV clinic and GI clinics, she is also involved with numerous research and process improvement projects. Dr. Hirsch also serves as a co-preceptor for pharmacy residents and students on their VA rotations.

Brian M. Hoffman, Pharm.D., BCCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care

Dr. Hoffman earned his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University of Toledo in 2018. After graduation, he completed his PGY-1 and PGY-2 in critical care at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Following residency, he worked in the Emergency Department and Medical ICUs at ProMedica Toledo Hospital. He transitioned into his role as a critical care pharmacist in the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in January 2023. His current responsibilities include rotating through the MICU, CICU, and SICU serving as the pharmacy representative on the interdisciplinary ICU team and precepting pharmacy residents and students.

Carol A. Ingle Pharm.D., CACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation Clinic

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Anticoagulation Clinic

Dr. Ingle received a BS in Pharmacy from the University of Toledo in 1988 and a Pharm D from The University of Florida in 2019. She has worked at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System since March 1988 in various capacities from Inpatient student, pharmacist to supervisor, Outpatient and Anticoagulation Clinics. She also has retail experience as well, from Revco, Rite Aid, Drug Mart and Giant Eagle. In 1996 was granted an ASHP Research and Education Foundation traineeship in Anticoagulation Management. In 2006 help to consolidate all Anticoagulation Clinics into one centralized clinic and became the Program Manager. Carol is the only Board-Certified Anticoagulation Provider (CACP) at VANE Ohio Medical Center since 2010 and has maintained the VA Anticoagulation Clinic as a Center of

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Excellence since 2013. She also participates in research and training of residents and students. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice for Northeast Ohio Medical University and helps APPE students from all Ohio Pharmacy schools. Responsibilities include management of all staff in the Anticoagulation Clinic, quality management and safety data management as well as oversight of all anticoagulation for both inpatient and outpatient use. Dr. Ingle is also a member of and leads the VISN 10 Anticoagulation Community Practice group and National VA subject matter expert group on Anticoagulation, which sets Anticoagulation practice guidelines for VA's nationwide.

Kiki Kapolis, Pharm.D., BCPS Manager, Inpatient Pharmacy

Dr. Kapolis is originally from Bath, Ohio. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Findlay in 2017. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the Portland VA Medical Center in Portland, OR. Following the completion of her residencies in 2018, she began working as a staff pharmacist in the inpatient pharmacy before taking a role as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist on the Spinal Cord Injury unit. She is currently one of the inpatient pharmacy managers. She serves as the staffing preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy residency. She also participates in the Research committee and Medication Safety Committee within the medical center.

Ashley Kenzik, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDE Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Ashley Kenzik is originally from Lorain, Ohio. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2004. Following graduation, she started her career at Rite Aid; this store previously being a successful independent pharmacy helped establish her strong patient driven work ethic. She began volunteering for the Lorain County Free Clinic during her internship, eventually became a part of the Board of Directors serving as the secretary and pharmacy license holder and continues volunteers here to this day. She also has held an adjunct position with Lorain County College as a Pharmacology professor for Allied Health and Nursing in addition to precepting Pharmacy students from various pharmacy colleges. In 2007, Dr. Kenzik joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) as a staff outpatient pharmacist and quickly transitioned to the clinical realm as a Lipid Specialist and provided clinical pharmacy services for Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). She eventually Transitioned to a PACT Clinical pharmacist at the Lorain Community Outpatient Clinic where she continues to practice. Current responsibilities include disease state management with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, pharmacy resident and student precepting as well as responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She has participated in a number of pharmacy committees and projects during her tenure. She obtained her Ambulatory Care Board Certification (BCACP) in 2011 and became a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in 2014.

Kaitlyn Knick, Pharm.D., BCPS Manager, Inpatient Pharmacy

Dr. Knick, originally from Amherst, Ohio, graduated from The University of Findlay in 2017 and completed her PGY1 residency at Mercy Health – Lorain in June 2018. Following residency, Dr. Knick started her career as a clinical pharmacist at Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky, Ohio until March 2019 when she transitioned to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as an inpatient staff pharmacist. She took on the role of Emergency Department Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, and most recently transitioned to the second and third shift inpatient pharmacy manager. Dr. Knick is currently involved with the research committee and CPR committee within the medical center.

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Matthew Kubiak, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Spinal Cord Injury

Dr. Kubiak is originally from Wickliffe, Ohio. He obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA in 2007. Following graduation, he started his career as a staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. In 2012 he transitioned to the Spinal Cord Injury unit as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. His daily duties include completing medication reconciliation, collaborating with providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, chart reviews, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing non-formulary drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. Dr. Kubiak is involved in precepting pharmacy residents as well as APPE pharmacy students. He also has been a pharmacy resident teaching advisor. He represents pharmacy on the Interprofessional Pressure Injury Committee, SCI LTC Admission Review Board, and the ALS Interdisciplinary Team.

Christopher Lacey, Pharm.D., BCPS

Associate Chief, Clinical Pharmacy Services

Dr Lacey is originally from Erie, Pennsylvania. He earned his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in May 1999. After graduation he completed a 1-year Pharmacy Practice Residency at Hamot Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Residency, Dr. Lacey has since worked at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, OH. He began in the area of Internal Medicine. He obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2002 (BCPS). He became a part of pharmacy management in 2008. He is currently the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Services at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. He is involved with precepting pharmacy residents and students from local pharmacy schools. He is also a member on various committees at both the local and regional level.

Emily May, Pharm.D., BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. May is originally from Norton, Ohio. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The University of Toledo in 2018. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency, followed by a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She obtained board certification in geriatrics (BCGP) in 2021. Following residency, Dr. May held a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist position in Transitions of Care at Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Dr. May returned to VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2023, as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Geriatrics. Her current responsibilities include completing comprehensive medication therapy reviews, providing drug information, performing discharge counseling, and participating in interdisciplinary team patient assessments for the Community Living Center (long-term care). She also serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students, PGY-1 pharmacy residents, PGY-2 geriatric pharmacy residents.

Lori Melikian, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Hematology/Oncology

Dr. Melikian graduated with her PharmD from Duquesne University in 2018. After graduation, she completed PGY-1 residency training at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital in Cleveland, OH followed by a PGY-2 residency in Hematology/Oncology at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN. Following residency, she obtained Board Certification in Oncology Pharmacy (BCOP) and took her first role as a Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Solid Tumor Oncology at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center in Cleveland, OH until October 2021. She returned to

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the VA in Indianapolis in November 2021 as a Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. In June 2023, Dr. Melikian joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System team as one of the Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialists. Her current responsibilities include chemotherapy toxicities assessments, oral antineoplastic adherence/toxicity clinic and inpatient consult team coverage. She is an active member of CPPO Oncology Subject Matter Expert Workgroup and AVAHO.

Sherry (Sharon) K. Milfred Laforest, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Cardiology

Dr. LaForest received her B.S. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1991 and 1992. She then completed a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Transplantation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. She joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in July 2008 as the Clinical Specialist in Cardiology and Solid Organ Transplantation. Prior to joining the VA, Dr. LaForest held positions as a Clinical Specialist in Heart Failure and Transplantation at Temple University in Philadelphia PA, Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, IN, and University Hospital-Case Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. She currently practices in the Heart Failure Shared Medical Appointment (SMA) group clinic, Heart Failure Transitional Care Clinic and the Heart Failure Medication Titration Clinic. She has ad hoc responsibilities with electrophysiology/general cardiology and solid organ transplant services. She serves on several institutional committees including as the pharmacy representative to the VANEOMS Research and Development Committee, the Advanced Heart Failure Committee and is the co-chair of the PHASER Pharmacogenomics implementation steering committee. She is active in several professional organizations and has held offices and/or served on committees for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the American Heart Association (AHA). She serves on the pharmacy residency project committee and as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students in cardiology rotations.

Colleen P. LeHew, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Director, PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. LeHew graduated from Duquesne University in May 2010 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOMS. After completing her residencies, Dr. LeHew joined the faculty at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University as a Clinical Assistant Professor and a Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Lutheran Hospital. In 2014, she returned to the VANEOMS where she is working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry. Her responsibilities include serving as a preceptor for psychiatric pharmacy specialty residents, pharmacy residents in other specialties and pharmacy students. Other duties consist of providing clinical pharmacy services for inpatient and outpatient psychiatry. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacology and has been a board-certified psychiatric pharmacy specialist since 2013.

Audrianna Lombardi, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Dr. Lombardi obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Walsh University in 2013. She went on to obtain her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2018 from Northeast Ohio Medical University. After graduation, she went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY-1 pharmacy residency at Ascension St. Vincent Evansville in 2019 and stayed on as a clinical staff pharmacist for an additional year. After this,

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she went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2021. After completion, Dr. Lombardi joined VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as a mental health clinical pharmacy specialist at the Canton CBOC and continues in this position. Dr Lombardi is Board Certified in both Pharmacotherapy (2019) and Psychiatric Pharmacy (2021). Dr Lombardi is an active preceptor for both pharmacy students and residents during their outpatient mental health rotations and other projects.

Mary Beth Low, Pharm.D.

Pharmacy Program Manager, Pharmacoeconomics

Dr. Low graduated from Creighton University in 1995 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Low is currently a Pharmacy Program Manager for the VANEOLS. At the VANEOLS in Cleveland (Wade Park campus) her responsibilities include oversight of medication and supply shortages, optimizing procurement workflows, providing medication use and cost analysis information to pharmacy leadership, as well as monitoring performance on medication initiatives to improve patient care and impact drug expenditure. Other duties include participating in the national PBM Research Steering Committee and both national and local Medication Use Evaluation Committees as well as serving on the local pharmacy residency project committee and Residency Advisory Committee. Dr. Low precepts both PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents in Formulary Management and MUE experiences. Dr. Low began her career as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She provided clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and previously served as the director of the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency program. She recently transitioned from her role as the VISN 10 Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Pharmacoeconomics and is excited to be focusing her expertise on the VANEOLS.

Jennifer Luxenburg, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Endocrinology Diabetes

Director, PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Luxenburg graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. After graduation, she completed both her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residencies at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS). Upon completion of residency training in 2013, Dr. Luxenburg accepted a position as a Primary Care Clinical Specialist at The Cleveland Clinic. She established clinical pharmacy services at The Cleveland Clinic Stephanie Tubbs Jones Family Health Center and was involved in pharmacy and medical resident education. Dr. Luxenburg returned to VANEOLS in February of 2017 as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the Parma Community Based Outpatient Clinic focusing on primary care and endocrinology diabetes clinics. In 2022 she transitioned to her current position as Endocrinology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Clinical responsibilities include diabetes management with a focus on diabetes technology and weight management. Dr. Luxenburg is the Residency Program Director for the PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency, preceptor for pharmacy residents and students, and has been a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist since 2013.

Alessandra Lyman, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Lyman received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeastern University in 2015. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Boston Healthcare System in 2016 and a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2017. After

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completion of residency, she worked as a Clinical Ambulatory Pharmacist at Wentworth Douglass Hospital/Wentworth Health Partners in Dover, NH. Dr. Lyman returned to VANEOHS in 2018 as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in 'Meds to Beds', and then transitioned in 2019 to her current position as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care. Responsibilities include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics via phone, in person and video visits. Other duties include collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia as well as responding to drug information requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Lyman received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018.

Christy Marchiando, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Marchiando obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska in 2016. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care at VA Central Iowa Healthcare System in Des Moines, Iowa. In 2017, Dr. Marchiando accepted a job as a clinical pharmacy specialist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System where she helped establish the Meds to Beds program, providing medication reconciliation and medication delivery and counseling services to discharging patients. Dr. Marchiando earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018. In 2021, Dr. Marchiando's role transitioned into an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist, where she participated in patient care rounds with the interdisciplinary medicine teaching service. In 2022, Dr. Marchiando transitioned into her current role as a clinical pharmacy specialist in ambulatory care. Her responsibilities include providing virtual and in-person care for chronic disease management in the outpatient Wade Park clinic. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 & PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Rotations as well as for PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy.

Steve Margevicius, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Home Based Primary Care

Dr. Margevicius attended The University of Toledo where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2011 and Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013. He then completed his PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency at the St. John Medical Center in Westlake, OH and joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2014. Dr. Margevicius is currently based out of Wade Park where he serves as the Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) Pharmacy Supervisor. In addition to providing administrative and clinical pharmacy services to HBPC, Dr. Margevicius is also involved as preceptor and research advisor to pharmacy students and PGY1/PGY2 residents. Dr. Margevicius remains involved with various local and national pharmacy organizations such as the Cleveland Society of Health System Pharmacists (CSHP) where he most recently served as Secretary in 2014.

Alexa Martinek, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Spinal Cord Injury

Dr. Martinek obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in May 2017. Following graduation, she started her career in retail pharmacy working as a pharmacist for Discount Drug Mart. After a few months of working in retail, she started working as a staff pharmacist in the Inpatient Pharmacy at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. In 2021, she transitioned to a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist position on the Spinal Cord Injury unit. Her daily duties include completing admission and discharge medication reconciliation, chart reviews, collaborating with providers and

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participating in interdisciplinary team rounds to ensure appropriate medication therapy, reviewing non-formulary drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. Dr. Martinek is involved in precepting APPE pharmacy students as well as PGY1 pharmacy residents. She represents pharmacy on the Interprofessional Pressure Injury Committee and the Community Living Center (CLC) Pressure Injury Task Force. She is also involved in the Medication Incident Review Group as well as Pharmacy Medication Management.

Katie McMillan, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. McMillan is originally from Strongsville, Ohio, and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2015. She went on to complete a PGY-1 residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care at HealthSpan (formerly Kaiser Permanente Ohio) and her PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency with Preferred Primary Care Physicians and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. Following residency, Dr. McMillan began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at VANEOLS in August 2017 and she currently practices at the Parma Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Dr. McMillan's responsibilities and duties include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics, collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, and responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. Dr. McMillan received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018. She is also active with Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy (OCCP) previously served as co-chair of the Advocacy Committee.

Amanda Mertz, Pharm.D., BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care in Women's Health

Dr. Mertz is originally from Northern New Jersey. She graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Connecticut in 2017. Upon graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS) and then continued her training as a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Resident at the same site. After her residency graduation in June of 2019, Dr. Mertz joined the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care and Geriatrics. She served as an Ambulatory Care clinical pharmacy specialist, CLC pharmacist and HBPC pharmacist during her Tenure at the Tuscaloosa VA. Dr. Mertz received her Board Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy in 2019. She rejoined the VANEOLS clinical Pharmacy staff in August of 2021 as the Women's Health Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Dr. Mertz also provides PACT primary care coverage support to different CBOC locations within VANEOLS and also works with LGBTQIA+ veterans in the GIVE clinic. Responsibilities include collaboration with Women's Health providers to evaluate and manage chronic disease states, such as diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and osteoporosis. Provides reviews of patient medications for potentially teratogenic or inappropriate medications in pregnancy and lactation. She additionally provides drug-information reviews and completes nonformulary consults for Women's Health medications and GIVE clinic patients.

James Moran, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Moran received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from D'Youville University, School of Pharmacy in Buffalo, NY in 2016. After graduation, he completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Following residency, Dr. Moran began his clinical practice as the Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator and critical care pharmacist at Lake West Medical Center, part of Lake Health in Willoughby, Ohio. In 2018, James transitioned to Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital as a clinical pharmacist with practice areas in medicine, neurology, and critical care. James joined the VA

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Northeast Ohio Healthcare System pharmacy team as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Emergency Medicine in 2021 before transitioning to Internal Medicine in 2022. His daily responsibilities focus heavily on interdisciplinary teamwork working closely with physicians, residents, social work, care managers and patients for pharmacotherapy recommendations and information. Additional responsibilities include daily antimicrobial stewardship, patient counseling, formulary management and medication histories. He is both ACLS and BLS certified. In addition to rotational precepting, he is involved in research projects and the teaching certificate program.

Jessica L. Mulhollan, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Substance Use Disorders

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Mental Health/Pain/SUD

Dr. Mulhollan obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 2009. She completed both an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY, from 2009-2011. Following residency, Dr. Mulhollan worked as an inpatient psychiatric clinical pharmacist at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, PA, for 5 years. While there, she worked on the dual diagnosis unit specializing in substance use disorders. She then took a position with Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, OH, as an inpatient clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry in March 2016. She worked on both a general adult psychiatry unit and a geriatric psychiatry unit there for 3 years. In May 2019, she accepted a position as a clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry at the VANEOLS Canton Outpatient Clinic serving as a mental health prescriber providing comprehensive medication management with prescriptive authority, conducting assessments, placing consults/referrals to appropriate services, and ordering laboratory and other tests for her veterans. Additional responsibilities included completing non-formulary psychiatric drug requests and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. In January 2021, she accepted a position as the clinical pharmacy specialist in substance use disorders at the Wade Park campus. Her responsibilities include working with the ambulatory detox, opioid treatment program, and IOP teams, providing medication education groups for IOP patients, developing, and implementing treatment protocols to include buprenorphine micro-induction, fentanyl test strips, and a syringe services program, and serves as the medication prescriber for IOP patients interested in medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder. In addition, she continues to complete non-formulary psychiatric drug requests and serve as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. In November 2021 Dr. Mulhollan accepted the additional position of clinical pharmacy manager for the mental health, pain, and SUD clinical pharmacy specialists. Dr. Mulhollan earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy (BCPP) in 2013. She is an active member of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists, having served on the Program Committee from 2013-2016, and currently serving on the BCPP Recertification Editorial Board since 2016, most recently as a senior editorial board member since 2022.

Pamela Ong, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Ong received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and Pharmacy in 2010. Following graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital. She then accepted a full-time staff pharmacist position at Hillcrest Hospital, where she worked for three years before moving into her role of emergency medicine clinical pharmacist in 2014. In 2015, Dr. Ong took a position at Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital where she served as a clinical pharmacy specialist in Internal Medicine. While there, she served on various committees. Most notably, she served as the PGY1 pharmacy residency program director, the pharmacy chair for the Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee, and the lead pharmacist for the

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Investigational Drug Service. In May 2021, she accepted a position as a clinical pharmacy specialist in Internal Medicine at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. In her current role, she rounds with various internal medicine teams and provides pharmaceutical services which include therapeutic drug monitoring, drug information, patient education, and evaluation of non-formulary medication requests. She also serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students and residents. Dr. Ong earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2012 and is an active member of ASHP and ACCP.

Kristina Pascuzzi, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Pascuzzi graduated from The University of Toledo in May 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science, then in May 2001 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited residency in Pharmacy Practice with emphasis in Ambulatory Care at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, CT. She is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Responsibilities include serving as a preceptor for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency program, precepting PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and Pharm.D. candidates from area Colleges of Pharmacy including Ohio Northern University, University of Toledo, and The Ohio State University. Other duties consist of providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments. This is accomplished by collaborating with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and by providing disease state management of diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia, as well as managing patients on anticoagulation therapy. Offering drug information, responding to therapeutic consults and non-formulary consults, as well as requests for patient education are also incorporated throughout the day.

Alexa Petrarca, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Petrarca earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2015 and subsequently completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS). She then served as a nursing unit-based pharmacist for the Cleveland Clinic and became a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist before returning to the VA in 2017 to implement a pharmacist-run "Meds-to-Beds" discharge service that included medication reconciliation, patient counseling, and bedside delivery of prescriptions. In the spring of 2021 Dr. Petrarca participated in the expansion of VANEOLS clinical pharmacy services to implement a robust Internal Medicine practice where she and her esteemed colleagues provide direct patient care throughout the entire acute care hospital stay. Daily duties include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participating in interdisciplinary patient care rounds, performing medication reconciliation at each transition of care (admission, transfer, and discharge), pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, providing discharge medication counseling, and more. She serves as a preceptor for an Internal Medicine rotation for both PGY-1 pharmacy residents and pharmacy students.

Alia Poore, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP

Medication Safety and Quality Manager, Pharmacy

Dr. Poore received a PharmD from the University of Toledo in 2008. She then completed a PGY-1 and PGY-2 Critical Care residency at MetroHealth in Cleveland. Alia is currently board certified in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and critical care (BCCCP). Before her current position, Alia practiced as a critical care pharmacist for several years at CCF Fairview and at VANEOLS. In 2023, Alia moved into her

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current role of Pharmacy Medication Safety and Quality Manager. Her responsibilities include but are not limited to: evaluating medication safety events to determine if systems changes can be made, chair of Medication Management Committee, review of pharmacy policies and procedures, evaluating any medication related process for safety/quality issues, regulatory compliance, co-chair of pharmacy residency project committee, member of mortality review workgroup, and member of pertinence review workgroup. Alia enjoys this job because her tasks are different every day and she gets to work with all the sections of the pharmacy department and help to ensure goals are aligned. Alia hopes to increase resident involvement in medication safety and quality tasks as well as create a resident rotation in the coming year.

Sara L. Pucci, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry (Lake County CBOC)

Dr. Pucci received her Pharm.D. from University of Charleston School of Pharmacy in 2019. Following graduation, she completed her PGY-1 residency at Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital and her PGY-2 psychiatry residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). After residency, she stayed at VANEOHS as a mental health clinic pharmacy specialist, working at the Lake County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). Her daily responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management, collaborating with other mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requesting, completing non-formulary consults, and serving as a preceptor to pharmacy students and residents. Dr. Pucci received her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2021. She is an active member of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists.

Kelsey Rife, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Gastroenterology/Hepatology

Clinical Program Manager—Academic Affairs

Dr. Rife earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in May 2012. Upon graduation, she completed both her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residencies at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She earned her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2014. Dr. Rife is a Clinical Pharmacist in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Clinics where her role has evolved from a focus on hepatitis C to broader support of these disease states, including a focus on inflammatory bowel disease. She has been highly involved in various research and quality improvement projects using Lean Six-Sigma methodology. As the Clinical Program Manager of Academic Affairs, she chairs the Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), supervises the pharmacy intern program, and coordinates preceptor development. Dr. Rife is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Northeast Ohio Medical University and serves as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. She remains active in both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy (OCCP), holding various leadership positions including the 2019 President of OCCP and 2021-2022 Chair for the ACCP GI/Liver/Nutrition PRN.

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Melissa A. Rock, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Rock obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and minor in Chemistry in 2013 and her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree in 2015 from the University of Toledo. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Following residency, Dr. Rock worked as the first Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital until June 2018. She returned to work as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at the VA Northeast Ohio Akron Outpatient Clinic in August 2018. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management to community-based outpatient clinics, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formularies, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Rock earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2017. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Mandy Roesel, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Roesel earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University in 2008. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). She is currently an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VANEOHS and has been in this role since completion of her residency. She provides clinical pharmacy services for the inpatient internal medicine wards. Duties include collaborating with providers to evaluate drug therapy and monitoring, performing admission, transfer, and discharge medication reconciliation assessments, participating in teaching rounds and interdisciplinary team rounds, and ensuring appropriate medication use while inpatient and at transition of care including discharge medication counseling. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy residents and pharmacy students when rotating on internal medicine. Additionally, she is involved with patient safety activities including reviewing medication incidents submitted to the medical center and serving as a member of the Medication Management Committee. She is also a member of the Medication Use Evaluation committee and an ad-hoc member of the Residency Advisory Committee, serving as the chair of the interview subcommittee. She is also the program coordinator for the VANEOHS Teaching and Learning Curriculum Program.

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Sarah Rotman, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Rotman received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2011. She then completed a PGY1 Geriatrics-Track Pharmacy Residency at the North Florida/South Georgia VA Healthcare System. After residency, she stayed at the NF/SG VHS, first as a Surgery clinical pharmacy specialist, then transitioning to the Internal Medicine service. In 2019, Dr. Rotman left Florida to join the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System under the Meds to Beds program. In 2021, Dr. Rotman transitioned into her current role as an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist. Her responsibilities include attending interdisciplinary team rounds, monitoring anticoagulation and vancomycin, completing medication reconciliations upon transitions of care, and providing medication education to patients and to other members of the medical team. She enjoys serving as a preceptor for Pharm.D. candidates and PGY-1 pharmacy residents.

Rachel Springer, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Springer received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and then her Doctor of Pharmacy from The Ohio State University in 2011. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with a focus in ambulatory care at the Dayton VA Medical Center (DAVMC) in 2012. After graduation Dr. Springer worked as an outpatient pharmacist at the Dayton VA Medical Center before coming to work at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2013 at the Mansfield CBOC. Coming to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, she started as a clinical pharmacist specialist building up pharmacy services in the CBOCs focusing primarily on diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension. Dr. Springer initially obtained her board certification in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) in 2012, then converted her board certification in ambulatory care (BCACP) in 2018. Currently, Dr. Springer is the PACT Pharmacy Manager overseeing the clinical pharmacy specialists working in ambulatory care.

Katherine (Katie) Stypa, Pharm.D., BCPS

Director, PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Stypa earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2012. She then completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). She assumed the role of PGY-1 Residency Program Director for the 2018-19 residency class and has been in her current position as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist since completion of her residency, where she provides clinical pharmacy services for the patients on the internal medicine wards. Daily duties include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy for Veterans on the general medicine ward, participating in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing medication reconciliation on all transitions of care and pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy and PGY-2 ID and geriatrics residents during their months rotating on internal medicine, as well as pharmacy students. She is also involved in numerous other activities including serving as a residency mentor, a member of the VANEOHS's Pharmacy Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), and Pharmacy Service's representative on the Joint Commission Disease Specific Certification – Inpatient Diabetes group.

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Mandy Weber, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care

Dr. Weber earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in 2009. After graduation, she completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). After residency, she stayed at VANEOHS as an Emergency Medicine clinical pharmacy specialist until 2018. Duties included medication reconciliation, patient and staff education, formulary management, emergency response, precepting and antimicrobial stewardship (through a pharmacy-driven ED culture follow up program she developed). In 2018, she transitioned to a Critical Care and Cardiology clinical pharmacy specialist position. Current duties include participating in rounds, medication reconciliation, drug monitoring, formulary management, emergency response and precepting pharmacy residents and students. She is a member of the CPR Committee, Parenteral Nutrition Committee and MICU and SICU Quality Improvement Committees.

Candice Wenzell, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Wenzell received a Pharm.D. from Ohio Northern University in 2009. She then went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at Cleveland Clinic followed by a PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residency at The Ohio State University. From 2011 to 2013, she worked at Cleveland Clinic as the inpatient leukemia pharmacist. She joined the VANEOHS as the hematology/oncology clinical pharmacy specialist in 2013 and transitioned to an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist in 2018. Her daily responsibilities include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing medication reconciliation at transitions of care, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy, PGY-2 ID residents, and pharmacy students during their months rotating in internal medicine, as well as providing topic discussions for oncology rotations. She is also a mentor for residents. She coordinates the Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee which reviews high-cost medications under consideration for use at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is also a member of the Research committee. Dr. Wenzell is Board Certified in Oncology. She was awarded the “Preceptor of the Year Award” by the VANEOHS pharmacy residency class of 2017. Dr. Wenzell is an active member of the Hematology Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA), serving as a member of the Publications Committee from 2013-2016 and 2018-2020, member of the Professional Development Committee from 2016-2017, and chair of the Resource Library Subcommittee (2017-2018).

Rachel Wilden, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Wilden received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Butler University in 2016. After graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY-2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following residency, Dr. Wilden began at VANEOHS as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Emergency Medicine prior to transitioning to her current position in Internal Medicine in 2021. Responsibilities include interdisciplinary rounds, medication reconciliation, pharmacokinetic monitoring, drug information, formulary management, and precepting pharmacy residents and APPE students. Dr. Wilden’s practice interests include internal medicine, emergency medicine, transitions of care, and quality improvement.

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Robert J. Willborn, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Bob received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (2013), Master of Public Health (2015), and Doctor of Pharmacy (2016) from North Dakota State University. He subsequently completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver, Colorado and an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOHS in Cleveland, Ohio. Following residency, Bob has worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Mental Health within the VANEOHS's community-based outpatient clinics, located in Sandusky and Lorain. His responsibilities include providing mental health medication management, drug therapy collaboration and consultation with other mental health providers, addressing outpatient drug information requests, completing non-formulary drug requests, and serving as a preceptor. Bob earned his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2017 and his Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy in 2018.